winds up with the following gentle him

Pive or six shillings will do us no harm, Silver or copper or gold if you can.

But not by sports alone did our an

cestors keep the Christmas of olden time

Strifes were forgotten during this holy season and hospitality reigned every

where, while Christmas charities wen

liberally extended to all the poor and

suffering. Even the beasts were not

forgotten, it being customary to carry an extra allowance of food to every an-

imal on the farm, so that even the dumb creatures might share in the uni-

jecting this favored grees, under the

Whoever against holly do cry, In a rope shall be lung full high; Whosoever against holly do sing,

Finally, a venerable superstition sets

forth the necessity of removing all

Christmas decorations before the ap-

proach of Candlemas day, as to retain

them after the 2d of February was con-

sidered to bring evil luck upon a house-hold. Herrick, who has lent his vivac-

ious pen to so many Christmas themes,

gives also a final word of advice as to

the proper closing of this happy season:

Down with the rosemary, and so

Down with the bases and misleton;

Neglected there, maids trust to me,

He may weep and his hands wri

as to the purpose of their visit

versal good cheer.

NO. 52.

SALEM, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1884.

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Merry voices, have your way; Thrill us, lovely, laughing eyes; Turn December into May Underneath these frosty skies.

Laugh, ye grown-up children, too! What, though sober in your glee, Sweet old memories glimmer through Of the days that used to be.

Ring the joy bells all around. Hail the sacred Christmas morn, For the peace of life is found, And the hope of heaven is born.

Peace for every weary heart: Hope, for every struggling soul; Joy, that never can depart; Love, to consecrate the whole. -William Winter.

AFFER TWENTY YEARS.

A CHRISTMAS STORY.

Miss Bridget was an old maid; that is, she had been so long recognized and known as "Miss Bridget" that her friends and neighbors would have scouted the idea of her ever being called by any other name. There had been, to be sure, vague rumors of an early fondness on her part for some curly-headed youth; but whether that fondness had been reciprocated or not was a question only set at rest by the general opinion that no one could ever know Miss Bridget without loving her; so it was generously conceded that the curiy-headed youth had gone to sea, and been shipwrecked and drowned, and that Miss Bridget had "worn the willow" ever since, and would always continue to do so, for his sweet

The only reason for this sad and catasa trophical supposition rested in the known possession, by Miss Bridget, of a minialarge blue eyes and curling light hair, and clad in a blue jacket; yet on this slender hypothesis was crected a comcause of the perfectly charming blush | self command.

Miss Bridget lived in a large old stone house in a street which had once been in the suburbs of the great city, and where gone.

opinions on this question; so she con- its usual placidity. of inhabitants, and her dwelling stood rough looking box. out from among its modern neighbors-

among them, but not of them. look, not shared with any of "those marm?"

It stood in the center of several lots of ground, was possessed of a lawn and fine | bring something to open it." from the outside world, and all noise examined the direction curiously. and confusion, by a high stone-wall and a strong oaken gate, studded with big

From the polished iron mastiffs that guarded the portal, to the brass knobs and the brass knocker of the front door, all was shiny and in order. The interior of the house was a marvel of neatness and comfort. The massive furniture, darkened by age and daily friction, though unfashionable and out of date,

was stately and comfortable. The bright cannel coal fire in the sitting-room, that flashed in the large open grate as soon as the brown leaves in the

The polished brass fire dogs and fenders-more for ornament than use-reminded one of the stability and security of olden times. And when Miss Bridget could be seen sitting in front of the fire at dusk, with some of her young friends about her, the scene of home comfort and quietude was complete.

Miss Bridget's household was orderly through a system which had been followed for forty years—in fact, ever since the room she now occupied.

The same highly respectable butlerable housekeeper managed her domestic mother before her. The life in the brick houses in the neighborhood, and was stone house was, in fact, one of the last relies of the life of a half century before, when it was a hope and a joy to have pitiless. lived at all, instead of a disease and in-

necting link between the old and the new. Her recollections were of the past yard. and of the old-but rather by tradition than by actual experience, for she was only forty-while her associations seemed ever with the young.

found surrounded by young, charming, and gaudy creatures—butterflies of the fashionable world-who sought in Miss under which they lived, and to remind them of an existence more beautiful if her hand.

the curious.

Meanwhile there was wretchedness and sorrow and starvation in the by ways of Bridget had, that he was buried in the the night the fetish priests provide the the great city that recognized in her an sea, and had sent his jacket home as a god with one or more victims. The most angel of mercy and a constant savior from token—a most foolish supposition truly

the worst of evils. vine record unknown of men.

That she was ever amiable, kindly, REVOLTING SAVAGE RITES. ward, or his head is incased in the MERRY CHRISTMAS TIME. and generous, was a general reputation which she had achieved by the mere force of her personality; but those who so believed her would have been at a loss

for details to attest its truth. Meanwhile there were none who did not esteem her happy above most, for that she was tranquil and uncomplain-ing. And these would have marveled had they read her heart, and known that hers had been a life of bitter disappointment, as well as of entire self-abne-

gation; yet such it was. The intuition which grasps at truth, even unknowingly, had seized the secret of her heart in its furtive decision on the merits of the hidden miniature romance. Twenty years before, Miss Bridget had loved and been loved by the curly-headed young man whose portrait she preserved; and the separation of the threads of their lives, which ought to have been woven

together perpetually, had been a sad, sore episode which had chastened and saddened a spirit full of bright enjoyment and capacity for the perfection of earth-ly happiness. He had been poor, and she had been rich; and their story, like most sad ones, was a short one. A few months of constant association

and of growing love and then sickening disappointment of blighted hopes, and the young man had donned the blue jacket in which the artist painted him, and had departed across seas, and they had never met since.

Even correspondence was forbidden them by her parents-who loved their only child with that ignorant love that does not foresee; and as she was dutiful and he was proud, the thread had been cut, and they had drifted widely asun-

It had been in the autumn that he had gone away from her; and ever since, and now, when the season had returned, and the brown leaves pattered on the stone ture representing a young man having walks in the garden, she had felt the sadness of her crushed-out longings and

hopes press heavily upon her. Now, when the shrill blasts were wailplete scafaring romance, which the ing mournfully outside, and the Christcounger of Miss Bridget's friends de- mas tide-which promised to be green lighted in rehearsing for her edification that year-was only a day off, the dewhenever they felt in a peculiarly tan- pression of her spirits seemed almost betalizing humor-delighted chiefly be- youd the control of her dearly bought

the story brought to Miss Bridget's It was toward dusk on Christmas-eve, cheeks and the marvelously tender and she sat alone by the bright fire in smile with which it softened the rather the sitting-room, and that she might for is a mystery how they can indulge in the which attracted us in Foo-choo was the once accept the painful pleasure of reminiscence she let her memory carry her back to those halcyon days twenty years

residences had been sparsely scattered | She had been surrounded by a group about and were of a more substantial of young and happy beauties all the aftercharacter than those usually erected. noon; but they had dropped away and But the great city in its progress had left her all alone; and so she sat, deep caught up with this street, lined it with in thought, when a loud rap of the blocks of flaring red brick houses, and knocker startled her for a moment, and of Dahomey, human sacrifices had be- actual temple, where the kindly priests rushed onward, far out into the country. she came out of her reverie, thinking it come comparatively rare; but his suc-Miss Bridget could have disposed of might be the return of one of her late her property at a very high figure if she visitors, or a new one; and so her face, had been so inclined; but she did not, which had for a few moments become and no inducements could change her hard with lines of unrest, softened into

tinued to live there, isolated, though in | The door of the sitting-room opened, the midst of a constantly changing crowd and the butler appeared, bearing a small,

"It's a box, marm, just left here by a sailor chap, who said he was sent by the It was a stately, solid, square-built man- captain of a ship and told to leave it, and sion, with a home-like and comforting no answer. Will I bring it in here, capturing a large number of slaves. In with beautiful fur, much handsomer than

"Yes Joseph," said Miss Bridget. "You may place it here at my feet, and old shade trees in front, and a flower and The butler placed it on the rug at her fruit garden behind, and was shut in feet and left the room. Miss Bridget of the interior; another, chiefly women, patent fact that it wore large white-

> "To MISS BRIDGET CULVER, . No. 2 - Street.

It was bound with hoops of iron, and bore the appearance of having traveled; but the outside gave no clue to its

The butler returned, and after some trouble removed the lid, and retired. The contents of the box were wrapped in a covering of oil silk; and Miss Bridget removed this, and found beneath-a worn-out and faded blue jacket, a sailor's hat, and knife, and, wrapped in garden began to fall, was a charm in it- a bit of the same silk, the companionpicture of the miniature of the curlyheaded young man-a portrait of a beautiful girl, apparently about twenty

> years of age. Miss Bridget held these things for a moment in her hands; then she folded them slowly together, and rising from her knees, walked quietly out of the room and up-stairs, leaving the empty

box on the floor. When the maid knocked at her bedroom door, half an hour later, to call she was a baby, and a beautiful young her for tea, Miss Bridget answered that mother and a strong, manly father sat in she was ill, and desired not to be disturbed until morning.

That Christmas eve the winds mounted white-haired and time-worn waited at higher and higher, and whistled more table; the same fat and equally respect- and more drearily about the old stone house, and rattled the window-panes, concerns who had managed them for her and banged the blinds of the flaring altogether wild and uncomfortable and

At about midnight there came up a terrific snow storm, and at once annihilated all the possibilities of a "green Miss Bridgett ormed, in truth, a con- Christmas," which according to ancient superstition, "makes a fat church-

And on the Christmas morrow the snow lay heavily upon the trees, and was banked up in drifts all about the With old people she did not assimi- stone fence; but the sun shone merrily, late; and almost daily she would be and flashed brilliantly on the bright crystals; and early sleigh-bells awoke
Miss Bridget, where she had thrown herself, in her clothes, on the couch in her bedroom with her head resting on Bridget's society a nameless charm which seemed to soothe the feverish excitement under which they lived, and to remind lashed the bedroom, with her head resting on seemed to soothe the feverish excitement under which they lived, and to remind lashed the body of their royal with a splendid "mummerie" in the spouse. Earth was then thrown in to cover both living and dead. A short distance from the grave a stake was pre-

less brilliant, and tender and sweet in its | And late she rose and made her toilet, every element of orderly repose and re- and went down to eat finement. Miss Bridget was possessed her lonely Christmas breakfast; of a competence, and of competent ser- and on the stairs she was met by the vants, honest withal, to dispense it; maid, who said there was a gentleman therefore her domestic avocations were in the sitting room who insisted on seeing her. And so Miss Bridget, who, Many of her friends wondered how though in trouble herself, would inconshe occupied her time, since she was venience no one else entered the sittingnever seen with crochet or Berlin-wool in room and saw by the window a tall genher hands. True, she read much, and tleman, with thick curling brown hair, of the newest; and her music was some-thing to be remembered, as of the utter-steps and took her in his arms, and held rude multitude remain standing. Holdance of an harmonious soul through sym- her so close to his breast that if he had ing a tuft of human hair in his hand a pathetic fingers. Still, the greater por- not the curling brown hair, and the large priest dances in the center, the circle uttion of her time was unaccounted for to blue eyes, and the frank open face of the tering savage cries, clapping their hands

for "dead men tell no tales." There were poor, down-trodden crea- And so Miss Bridget did change her ures who could have told how many of name after all, and in spite of the confi- tree, the head placed above the feet. Miss Bridget's hours were dispensed. dent prognostications of her friends. But But she held conversation between her she never could quite forgive her sailorright and her left hand on such topics to husband for the shock and the dreadful means of a rope, and so held by a kind slices and sew close together upon be a vanity and unworthy, and there- grief she experienced when she discoverd of trigger. With the exception of the a piece of ribbon or tape an inch wide. fore these acts of hers passed in the di- the contents of his Christmas-box .- head the victim is inclosed in a wicker- It can be tied around the affected part Harper's Monthly.

A VIVID DESCRIPTION OF MISSION

A Terrible Picture of Cruelty Prac-tised by Fetish Priests—Human Flesh at Public Sale.

LIFE IN APRICA.

The Rev. Ferdinand Meshini and the Rev. William Connaughton have arrived from Africa, where they have been converting the natives along the gold coast, around the White Nile and in the Soudan. The society of which they are

members is known as the Society of African Missions. An interesting history of the perils of mission life was graphi cally related by Father Meshini. From the reverend father's account human sacrifice and slave trading are still exten-sively carried on. Father Meshini said that at Lagos, near Sierra Leone, where the parent house is established, natives quite well educated.

"The natives of the second generation," the priest said, "may be called members of a civilized community. At Porto-Novo, Lagos, Abekouta and other children carrying off the prizes from the children of European parents who are he is advised by the missionaries themselves to choose a wife from among the girls of the convent school. Agri-

becoming factors in the communi-The country was frequently devastated by famine. Whenever the rain fell too abundantly the fruits which constitute the staple diet of the natives, rotted and starvation followed, Corn not being subject to such damage, and bearing easily two crops a year, the people regard its introduction as a gift of Prov-

"After the kings, the priests who not be neglected, and which can be sucpractice medicine are, perhaps, the great- cessfully combined with the enjoyment est personages in this region. They need of the play. Vendors of refreshments, only to threaten to leave, and generally too, find a good market for their wares. they at once obtain any concession they demand from these sovereigns. The huts criminate between the different troupes sion: of the common people are made of bam- who travel about the country just as Fishing and hunting are but little prac- course, the very best troupes are engaged ticed, as they require bodily exertion, by the great mercantile guilds for their which is not agreeable to the natives. The magnificent temple theatres, which are disposition of these people is so mild it always worth visiting. One of the first practice of the cruelties, such as human great guild of the Ningpo merchants. sacrifices, for which they have become We obtained a tantalizing glimpse of the famous. The missionaries believe that scene from the roof of a neighboring ceedingly shrewd and who have a strong was sitting with his sons. Wishing for interest in perpetuating these bloody sac- a nearer view, but not caring to face the rifices, as their power is based on them, dense crowd, we entered the guild the country could be easily civilized. (which is practically a club) by a side Under the reign of Gnezo, the late king door, which took us right into the cessor, Grery, a slave to the fetish the great altar, whence, of course, we priests, has revived them and had a perfect view, and a stranger scene greater cruelty than ever. and the side courts are one mass of rich The number of slaves who annually perish in this way is estimated at several hundreds. The king of Dahomey is, as roofs harmonizing with a brilliant blue erful ruler in the whole region. During citing hunting scenes, in one of which ten months in the year he makes incur- an Amazon queen shot a tiger with bow sions into the neighboring territories, and arrow. It was a noble Chinese tiger two celebrated regiments of Amazons. green eyes. It rolled over quite dead, revolting as the fact may be, even to re- All the service of the play is done by late, openly sell human flesh in their coolies in their ordinary blue garments. shops. The third class is reserved for The acting of this troupe was excellent the sacrifices which take place in August and I was much amused a few weeks and September, during the celebration later, when visiting the Foo-choo guild of the 'Grand Customs.' These cere- at Ningpo, to find the identical company

deities; recalling the memory of dead kings and sending them supplies of men and provisions. been dug. The sacrifice began. Seven habit. kinds, were deposited at the bottom. regular as ours. So, likewise, are their habits in regard to alighting places, even

poor creatures were perishing made their nices. looking monsters. These ceremonies sent any change. - Atlantic Monthly. begin with a dance. In front of the shrine a circle is formed by the leaders

ing and nail the body upside down to a sis, or lime water. At other times a young tree is says: The best remedy for cramp is a stripped of its branches, bent down by band of cork. Cut a clean cork in thin work globe and suspended, head down- and worn at night.

common form of sacrifice to Ognn, the

god of war, is to behead the human offer-

stumps of the leaves which form the crown of the palm tree. The priest loosens the rope, the tree springs back and the victim is left swinging in the air. Birds of prey soon dispose of his body.—New York World.

Chinese Temple Theatres. Miss Gordon Cumming says in an article in the Pull Mall Gazette: Of all the odd methods ever devised by any nation

for combining amusement with religion,

I know of none so quaint as the theatri cal entertainments provided by wealthy Chinamen for the edification of their gods. In Europe we have had miracle Esgland before the influence of the refplays, such as still attract crowds to Ober-Ammergau; but the intention of these is emphatically to convey deep religious impressions to the minds of the ligious impressions to the ligious impressio tiate the idols, who are supposed, in common with their worshippers, to have a passion for the drama, and to share their wonderful power of endurance as regards the length of the plays, some of which are dragged on for three whole stations it is not rare to find native days, from dawn to sunset. These temple plays are the great and gratis entertainment of the people, who attend in domiciled in these localities. When a crowds. A densely packed throng, all boy has attained the age of thirteen years dressed in blue, fill every available corner of the temple court (the plays being in the open air) and of the steps leading up to the altars, above which the idols culture and the various trades are sit enthroned. The stage is always a separate building facing the temple-a sort of kiosk, open on three sides-its beautifully carved, curly roof being supported on carved pillars. The court is inclosed by open corridors with galleries, in which seats are provided for the mandarins and principal citizens. In the lower corridors many barbers ply their trade dilligently, for skull scraping and hair plaiting is a business which must

Regular playgoers soon learn to dispalm leaves. theatrical companies do in Europe. but for the fetish priests, who are ex- house, where one of our Chinese friends now they are practiced with I never beheld; the temple, the theatre, is known, the most ferocious and pow- sky. On the stage there were most exthis work he is chiefly assisted by his the hairy tiger of India, and it had flerce The prisoners taken during these expe- and the attendants tied its legs to a bamditions are divided into three classes. boo and carried it off in triumph. The One class is sold to the slave merchants illusion was not improved by the very are fattened and sold to butchers, who, souled Chinese shoes on its hind paws.

monies have a double purpose; pacify-ing the god of war Ognn, and other odd coincidence. Rather an

The Habits of Birds. "Among these savages exists a belief Birds not only cough and sneeze, but that a man passing into the future life they dream and snore, making most distakes with him all that is placed in his tressing sounds, as if strangling. They Devonshire housewives took especial ated in this country—the Baltimore and grave. For this reason, in Dahomey, as hiccough—a very droll affair it is, too— care that their chimneys were well swept Ohio, in 1827. He was then in Washin other savage countries, victims and and they faint away. One feat some- in preparation, lest the huge blaze of the ington, and subscribed for stock at the prisoners are placed in the tomb. Not times ascribed to man is in the case of Christmas logs should result in a disas- very outset of the enterprise. Now there long since the king of Porto-Novo died birds a literal fact—they can sleep with trous fire, poison-administered to him by a one eye open. This curious habit I have In Cheshire it is the almost universal rival for the throne. The funeral cere- watched closely, and I find it common habit of farm servants to hire themselves | Colonel Betton was an officer in the monies lasted nine days. During the in nearly all the varieties I have been from New Year's Eve to Christmas Day, whole of this time numbers of victims, able to observe. One eye will close thus securing a week of absolute freedestined for the 'Grand Customs,' were sacrificed every night in the fetish forest. The missionaries living in the neighboring huts could hear the cries of the suferers, whose mutilated bodies, arranged in lines, were seen every morning in the public square of the town. The heads difference. I have even had a bird stand tresses at home to take care of themselves as any boy, and bids fair to live to be a had been cut off and nailed along the on my arm or knee, draw up one leg, and and their work as well as they are able. hundred years old, - Montgomery (Ala.) walls of the palace. At 8 o'clock on the seem to sleep soundly with one eye, while The various games and diversions Advertiser. morning of the ninth day the new king the other was wide open. In several and his suite, preceded by the fetish years' close attention I have been unable them of great antiquity, and have been and his suite, preceded by the fetish priests moved in procession to the sacred to find any cause, either in the position handed down from generation to generwood were the grave of the late king had or the surroundings, for this strange ation with little apparent change. Snap-

slaves were killed and their blood mixed No "set old woman" is more wedded The body of the king was next lowered into the grave. Then were seen approaching nine of his women, draped in their brightest colored garments and purpose-bird I can always tell when something by intoxicated with Rettish (12.5%) or disturbing has occurred by the place in jects of an ovation they cast smiles on the desk his favorite haunt, and freely of a can of ale or cider in which a burnafter that morning and evening, until the leaders of opposing armies challenged ing candle had been put with a view to the twelfth day. every side as they passed through the visit tables, the rounds of chairs and throng. On reaching the edge of the the floor, while another confines himself open grave they were made to kneel, and to the backs of chairs, the tops of cages distance from the grave a stake was pre- he would perch for hours, and twitter pared for the burning of the ministers, and call, but no other bird ever ap- of conspirators who were to be but these astute politicians dressed slaves proached it. Still another would always disguised as Twelfth Night mumin their robes of office, and while the select the door casing and window cor- mers, and Henry VIII. waged open war

semble dog-houses-appropriate dwell- become accustomed to the situation of

HEALTH, HINTS.

The best lung protectors are dry feet and warm comfortable body clothing, no exposures, and an abundance of sleep and rest, and no late suppers or dissipa-

physician as a better remedy for dyspepsia and sour stomach than soda, magne-A writer in the British Medical Journal

Eating a small piece of soap at stated

intervals is recommended by a Berlin

and the doctor employing himself is healing all the wounds, while the play

TRADITIONAL OBSERVANCES THE SEASON IN ENGLAND.

Raligious Sentiments and Popular Superstitions—Carols, Games and Customs.

And all the angels in Heaven shall sing, On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day; And all the bells on earth shall ring, On Christmas Day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice amain, On Christmas Day, on Chrismas Day; Then let us all rejoice amain, On Christmas Day in the morning. So sang the waits throughout Merrie

people, whereas the temple plays in China London," in the latter part of the six-are solely intended to amuse and propi-teenth century. The Puritians, carrying adorned. Ivy and mistlesse being rejected their zeal a step further, denounced the for the decoration of churches on acsinging of carols altogether, and would count of their Pagan associations, and fain have suppressed the feast of Christcypress being manifestly unfitted from mas itself as peruicious and unscriptural. its connection with the tomb, holly be-But the many time-honored customs came the favorite plant for this purpose which clung to the observance of the and has always retained its popularity. day were dear to the hearts of all, and An old song indeed warns us against refrom the re-establishment of the Stuart dynasty down to the present time we following dismal penalties: hear of carols being sung both on Christmas eve and on the morning of Christ-

> mas Day. Some of these, as Herrick's exquisite Star Song, are poens of the highest merit and others attractive only from their quaint simplicity and evident spirit of

Good Christians rise, this is the morn, When Christ the Savior He was born All in a stable to lowlee, At Bethlehem in Galiloo. Rejoice! our Savior He was born

On Christmas day in the morning. Others again are merely doggerel, sung by children as they go from house to house, collecting the accustomed Christmas bounty from all. The following belongs to Yorkshire, and the little ones were wont to carry with them a Christmas tree as a badge of their mis-

Well-a-day! well-a-day! For the good times will not stay. We are not beggars from door to door, But neighbors' children known before. So gooding pray, We cannot stay,

But must away, For the Christmas will not stay. ing of the Yule log, have their origin in straggling little village then, and Alex-Pagan times and are borrowed directly andria was one of the great cities of from the Druids and the Scandinavian the country." rites in honor of the Norse god, Thor. The hauling in and burning of the Yule ton, now of Cuthbert, Georgia, but relog was one of the most joyous Christ- cently of Butler county, Alabama. He mas ceremonies of feudal days, a time stood and talked to a reporter for an when old wrongs were forgotten, strife hour at the Union depot Sunday night, was laid aside and peace and plenty and his conversation was most inter-

reigned throughout. was carefully laid aside until the follow- as a boy of twenty. ing Christmas, when it was used to light the new log, and in the meantime it was 1825," continued the old gentleman. supposed to be an infallible protection "How well I remember it. We sailed against fire. The Yule candle, an enor- in the frigate Brandywine from the mous light, shed unwonted brilliancy mouth of the Potomac river September

was blazing on the hearth jollity reigned then. faggot night," enjoyed in the capacious | Colonel Betton was a stockholder in

dragon, one of the most popular sports in England, is of ancient and respected with earth to form a kind of plaster with to her accustomed "ways" than are pedigree. The raisins are put in a which the grave was lined. The heads birds in general to theirs. Their hours broad, shallow bowl, or dish, and of the seven victims, with food of all for eating, napping and singing are as covered with brandy, which is then ignited, and the guests endeavor to

ing candle had been put with a view to singeing his race and beard.

As for the "mummers," their against all masqueraders, punishing them escape. The sacrifices to the gods are Every bird has its chosen place for with imprisonment and fines. But the marked by greater and more varied re- the night, usually the highest perch on amusement of so many years was not to finements of cruelty. The shrines re- the darkest side of the cage. They soon be lightly expelled from the affections of the people, and down to the present day, ings for their idols, which are hideouslooking monsters. These ceremonies and change Atlantic Monthly. attired to represent Father Christmas, St. George, the dragon, the doctor, the grand Turk and Oliver Cromwell, Their rhymes are rude doggerel, interspersed with absurd jokes which never fail to please the ears of their uncritical audience. As a sample we quote the speech of the Protector as he appears in a Welsh mumming drama acted throughout the town of Yenly for some three weeks at

> Christmas time: Here come I, Oliver Cromwell, As you may suppose; Many nations I have conquered With my copper nose.

I made the French to tremble, And the Spaniards for to quake; I fought the jolly Dutchmen, And made their hearts to ache. St George and the Turk have several

combats, the saint coming off victorious, who goesfir st.

Superstitions About the Blind. The superstitions about blind people are so many and so queer as to seem to belong to the sixteenth ruther than to the

nineteenth century, says the principal of the Pennsylvania Institute for the Blind. Many well educated persons suppose that the blind can see in the dark, and that they can hear to a supernatural extent, and some who are not particularly learned profess to believe that they exert an evil nfluence over children. It is a theory that the pleasure of smoking depends on the satisfaction derived from seeing the smoke and the fire. As a matter of fact, we have inmates who enjoy nothing so much as tobacco. In some cases we have had trouble in curing patients ad-dicted to the use of the weed, and, altogether, I think there is sufficient evidence

to disprove the fire and smoke idea,

People acquire the art of smoking after

the equipm has been destroyed."

those that can see is the same. A great number of blind people have lost the use of their eyes before they were three years old. When they grow up they develop characteristics that one might sup-pose would only come from the shillty to see and compare. The little blind girls, who have not much recollection of what And softly walk with reverent fact! things in the world look like, get somewhere or other a love of dress, and they display all the vanity of the every-day child, who can see and admire itself in the looking-glass. They learn to know what colors suit them, and insist on his beels .- Call. being at their best. You will, perhaps, think it strange that they who cannot see appreciate the existence in others of sight which, to them, must be inexplicable and inconceivable, but it is so, and I cannot pretend to account for it. You would think that on their appearance in a public place they would imperfectly realize that other people could know what they were doing without touching them. Yet when our pupils give exhibitions of calisthenics and gymnastics they display before going before the spectators every system of stage-fright. It is a mistake to suppose that nature compensates for blindness by making the other senses more acute. There is a superstition that a blind man can attain a body cuts butter, - Merchant-Trunsler,

nicer sense of hearing and of touch than

eyes. There have been many pretty

things said about the beneficence of a

system that divided the energy that be-

longed to a lost sense among the senses

that remained. It is true that a blind

person learns to tell a good deal that is

going on by his sense of hearing. He

can tell people by their footsteps, but

any one can learn to do this if he will

take the trouble that a blind man is

willing to take in acquiring it. I have

tried it myself and have succeeded. At

one time, after I had devoted some at-

tention to the matter, I could tell a large

number of the pupils by their knock at

my door, and even now I recognize the

taps of many of them.-Philadelphia

The National Festival of Wales.

The Eisteddfod is the great national festival of Wales, which had the com-

mencement of its history in the remote

past. It was established in the infancy

of civilization and knowledge in the

British Isles. The Eisteddfod has been

the nursery of the bards and bardism in

Wales, and in the absence of any other

educational facilities it was the instruc-

tor of the people from time immemorial.

According to an old Welsh trial "there

are three artifices of poetry and record

among the nation of the Kymry: (Welsh)

Gwyddon Ganhebon, who first in the

world invented vocal song; Hu the

Mighty, who first invented the means of

recording and preserving vocal song; and Tydan, the Father of the Muse, who first

gave rules to vocal song and a system of

recording. From what these three men

effected, bards and bardism originated,

the dignities and customs pertaining to

which were arranged systematically by the three original bards, 'Plenydd,

'Alon,' and 'Gwron.' Three ranks of

orders constituted what was called Bar

das or Bardism: That of bard or poet,

that of Ovydd or philosopher, and that

"Y Gwir yn erbyn y byd"-(The Truth

Thy Eisteddfod was the fount of in-

struction, moral and religious, at the

time of the ancient Druids. The vehicle

ably termed, "Truth," was propagated

was poetry. The Bard wrought the phi-losophy of the Ovydd into song, and the Druid or instructor, who was also minis-ter of such religion as the Celtic Cymry

the result of the Bard and Ovydd. The

Throwing Down the Gauntlet.

the gauntlet has been a symbol of de-

fiance, a challenge to battle both in real

with Dares. In the Middle Ages, when

bearing a glove, was sent with the mes-

sage. Shakespeare makes Henry the Fifth, when he engages under an in-

cognito in a wordy dispute with one of

was for the injured person to appear at

a sense of right, so fervently appealed

often slain by his own clan to wipe out

bite the glove was the sure prelude of a

Stern Ratherford right little mid, But hit his glove and shock his head,

writes Scott in the "Lay of the Last

they reach the age of 61. By paying "a

to their rough justice, the offender

the disgrace brought upon them."

Minstrel."-American Queen.

quarrel:

From time immemorial throwing down

ating truth.

Down with the holly, ivy, all Wherewith ye drest the Christmas hall. That so the superstitious find No one least branch there left behind: For look, how many leaves there be

A Veteran's Story. "I was in Washington in 1812; and while visiting over in Alexandria in But if the singing of Christmas carols that year I saw the first troops called dates back to the very earliest ages of out to fight the British as they entered Christianity, when the bishops were ac- Washington to be armed. I remember customed to chant them to their assem- it as well as if it had been yesterday, bled flocks, other ancient practices be- for I stood on the street as the boys longing to the day, as, for instance, the marched by with beating drums and hanging of the mistletoe and the burn- flying banners. Washington was a

The speaker was Colonel S. D. Betesting. Betton is seventy-nine years A portion of the half-consumed block old, and is still hale and hearty, as spry

"I went with Lafavette to France in 11, 1825. There were forty-two offi-Analagous to the ceremony of the Yule cers on board, and I can tell you their log was the burning of the ashton, or names and their fate-what became of ashen fagot. While the huge bundle each of them. Oh, we had a big time

supreme in hall and kitchen, master and "In riding on horseback from Milservant alike joining in the games, which ledgeville, Georgia, to Hartford, Conwere apt to be of an arduous and trying necticut, once I traveled sixty-five miles character, jumping in sacks and diving in one day and stopped at a big wedfor apples being among the most popular. ding, where we danced all night. Every time one of the bands snapped went to school in Milledgeville in 1817 asunder the host was required by a time- with 168 boys and girls, and of that honored custom to furnish his guests number only three are living to-day. I with a fresh bowl of liquor; nor was the can give you the names of all the people demand unheeded. Indeed on so large living in Milledgeville at that time, disa scale was the hospitality of "ashen tinguishing between males and females."

farm-house kitchens, that all thrifty the first railroad enterprise ever inaugurare 125,000 miles of railroad in the United States.

United States Navy some fifty odd years ago. He is a wonderfully well preserved

In Shakespeare's time carols were sung in the streets during Christmas by waits gifts for their singing. Many a writer of olden times and customs refers to the wakeful "ketches of Christmas eve." It was after the Reformation that they ceased to sing Latin hymns in the churches and substituted the sweet Christmas carols. | contests and in the mimic warfare of For there were two kinds of carols in | tournaments. Virgil, in the fifth book which were sung not only in the churches, ly intoxicated with British "tafia," or disturbing has occurred, by the place in rum. Believing themselves to be the ob- which he is found. One bird will make expected to try and drink the contents to house upon Christmes eve, and even

the twelfth day. In those times men were able to spare more than one brief day for the celebration of Christmas, and kept up the festiwere of a livelier nature, and were aspecially adapted to the revel and the sepecially adapted to the revel and the feast where the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had potent battle the quarrel shall be settled with large the lord of misrule had be settled with large the lord of misrule had be settled with large the lord of misrule had be settled with large the lord of misrule had been been lord of misrule had been been lord of misrule had been lord of misr sail songs, and probably originated among the Angio-Normans, who were of a convivial nature. No Christmas en-tertainment was complete without the joyous singing of carols, and thence came among the Anglo-Normans, who were of joyous singing of carols, and thence came the motto, "No song, no supper," for every guest at the table was expected to join in the carol. One of the rules laid down by the ancient customs was that "the ancient master of the revel is, after dinner and supper, to sing a carol, a song, and to comurand other gentlemen present to sing with him and the

Mittenwald, a little town in Bavaria. which, as its name indicates, is situated in the midst of forests, has for over two hundred years been given over to the single industry of violin making. The very best of material is found right at their very doors, and in every yard in the place are seen violins suspended from ropes and poles to dry. All kinds of stringed instruments, violins, guitars and even banjos are manufactured there, and of \$240, on reaching that age. sent all over the world.

A leading question-Disputes as to

THE YEAR IS OLD-SO OLD!

he cure to give us a trial before con-

tracting with anyone clas-

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is fally prepared to do work with

REATNESS, DISPATON, AND AT THE VERY LOWEST PRICES

The year is old-so old? The nights are long and dark and dreasy; The fretting winds are never weary; They fret against the window pane,

The burden of their and refrain, The year is old-sp-chill The year is old-would The mountains tell it to the river, Their sides deep rest by seem and shiver; The rivers, sobbling as they flow, Repeat it in the vales below.

The wild sen waves take up the strain, And ocean bears it back again, The year is old--so cid! The year is old-so old! Oh, voices of the dreary night? Ob, alsopines watchers for the light? Ob, hills that lift your houry heads

Above the ice-bound river-beds!

OR While that wall brand mare The general make-up of the blind and Ob, sobbing, sighing, wild one waves: The year is old-so old! The year is old-so old! 3b, hearts that breathe and eyes that weep O'er buried hopes that treasures keep! Prepare the shroud and winding sheet,

The year is old-so old:

HUMOR OF THE DAY. Large ears are said to denote generity. The mule is very generous with

"My poor fellow," asked a man of the living skeleton at the Dime Museum, "where have you been boarding."-Picu-

There is said to be no pertainty about the fishing in Labrador. This does not differ materially from anywhere clan,-Longell Courser.

Ethel-"Oh, mamma, I've got such & pain!" Mother-"Where, dear?" Ethel. (a refined child)-"In my sush, mamma,"

Landon Judy. Goat is a favorite dish in San Francisco, says a correspondent, but we see nothing unusual in that, as nearly every-

Mother, is my chigmon perfect? Johnny's coming in the glosus And I want to make a much. ing in the glossuing;

Mother, to three-year-old out for a walk after tea: "See the full moon, Mabel?" Mabel, suffering from satistion: "Has the moon had supper, too?"-Chicops Current.

corn plaster pedler at the bury man's elbow. "Yes; I am supplied," answered the busy man without looking up. -- Bu-There's nothing half so sweet in life as for the ambitious lover to acremate his

"Have you corns?" blandly asked the

fair one and learn on the following day that she has been away visiting for three days .- Boston Times. The New York Graphic says that In the play of a "Wooden Spoon," a young man makes love to four beautiful young

ludy actresses. We should call that a "brans" spoon. - Norristeen Herald. SHARP SHOOTING. Tis now the hunter with his gun Over the woodland rambles, And beards the rabbit in his den

The crisp invigrenting air Fills him with vague delight, And sharpens each and every sense, Particularly his signs.

Ahs ! at last the game is roused-Bouncing big rabbit, very fat! Bang, bang! The bis! Is it! Why no-

about the subject of cannibalism, a grim fascination in its grisly horrors, that is not easily to be explained, but which, although few of us will admit it, most of us have experienced. Perhaps it is in subjective cannibalism alone that this nibalism muy not possess the same cerio of Druid or instructor. The motto of charm. But the very fact that cannibalthis institution was and is to this day: ism either exists now, or ever existed, is, however, dealed by some skeptical per-Against the World), from which it would sons-mostly strict and rigid wegetarappear that the Eisteddfod or Bardism | ians, one would think-who argue that was instituted for the purpose of propag- wild and natural races of men can not and do not lust for fiesh. The fact re-

mains the same. It seems that this time-honored practics-crime, many, unthinking and unjuby which instruction, or, as it was prob- dicial people would call it, whose opinions have been formed without consideration of the relation of crime to custom -has, at different times, existed in almost every part of the earth. It seems to have lingered longest in the most beautiful regions of it-in Polynesis, namely, where the writer of this, but for Draidical verses then probably constitute a fortunate and timely warning, would the most accient poetry of Britain .- himself have fallen a victim to the custom for which he has a feeling of respect, if not exactly of affection.

Our remote, possible forefathers them-selves, the prehistoric cavemen of Enrope in the Quaternary period, were addicted to this habit, which a pious feeling of respect for our ancestry should little authrophagiatic failings, in the shape of scraped and chipped human bones which, beside being cooked, are sents Entellus as casting a gauntlet on the ground before entering the lists broken in a manner too scientific and skillful to be the work of animals, are not infrequent, though it is believed by paleontologists that the custom was more of an exception than a role. Animal food being plentiful at that time in these cold northern latitudes, the great-est incentive to cannibalism was wanting his saidiers on the eve of the battle of blows. Among the Highlanders the off) pointed to the future extinction of custom of employing the giove as a their race. The ancient Irish, too, in more recent than Quaternary times ate their own doad; and our own Sanua forefathers must have possessed a knowledge of the custom if they did not the next meeting place, bearing a glove upon the point of a lance, and proclaim in early times actually practice it, as is shows by the Saxon word manuta, the perfidy. The symbol aroused so keen which occurs not infraquently in their Literature. - Popular Science Monthly.

Infantile Thumb-Sucking.

The British Medical Journal publishes an article by Dr. Horace Dobella, in which that distinguished physician states that he has observed that a peculiar and rather uncommon deformity of the chest is caused by the habit of sucking the thumb in infancy and early childho In Paris is being established a fund to He says that the weight of the arm on provide pensions for physicians when the thorax of the child, during sleep, produces depression of the ribs in the small yearly subscription" physicians en-title themselves to an annual allowance is placed in the mouth. The doctor thinks this is a very important, effect of Over \$50,000,000, in United States been pointed out—and he regards it of greenback notes, were destroyed by the government during the last fiscal year.